

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday June 16. 1711.

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**I** Must confess, the wild Notion our People have taken up in the Town about a Peace, is so near a Chimera, that it cannot but give any Man that has a clear View of Things, a very contemptible Opinion of our People.

No Man can give any other Reason for the Notion of Peace being Negotiating, but his meer Imagination; the best pretence made for it among the People, was, that they fancy'd so, meerly because the Armies were not yet Engag'd, and the best Authority given for it was, *They talk of it* — Yet such a length has this run among us — That we have form'd Realities in our

Imagination, and talk'd and thought of Things that are not, as if they were — That my Lord *Raby* was in Town here *incognito*, no body made any question, for *they say so*; which is an admirable Authority on their Side; and tho' the Foreign Prints gave every Day the very Journal almost of my Lord *Raby's* Transactions Abroad; yet it was all one, nothing could beat the Whym out of our Heads, but we would have it, that my Lord *Raby* was in Town, soliciting the Articles here, and settling Things — A Thing which ought to have had its place with the Labours of a learned Antiquary, who was hardly prevail'd with

with to forbear Printing his Essay upon the Discovery he had made, that King William was no-body but the Duke of Monmouth, whom King James pretended to have Beheaded upon Tower Hill.

But this falling, another Invention was trump't up to support the Imagination of Peace; and this was, that the King of Prussia was come to the Hague to mediate a Peace; That two French Agents were in his Retinue *incognito*, and that his Majesty was carrying on the Treaty privately at the Hague — It was to no purpose to object the ill Manners of this, to make the King of Prussia, who is not a Prince of the least Nicety and Ceremony in Europe, to become a Plenipotentiary of France; to make his Prussian Majesty put a Trick upon the Dutch, and bring in French Spies and Emissaries into Holland conceal'd, as we may say, among his Baggage, when it is well known, how careful and how strict the Dutch have been to keep them out, that they would not suffer even their Ministers of State, who bore the publick Character of Plenipotentiaries, to come but just as far as they directed.

It might not be amiss to laugh at our selves a little too, in this; How merrily we were Stock-Job'd into this, and how far we were carried on in it, to raise all our Stocks, lift the Price of publick Funds, Lotteries, and Annuities: So light a Thing is the English Credit, and so easily does a Feather turn the Scale of that most material Article in our Prosperity, that on a meer Chimera, without Foundation, without Sense, without Reason, we should run up the Value of these Knaves Estates, who at the same time only gap'd to sell them to us — And now they have sold to us, now they have wheedled us in to buy, upon the most absurd and ridiculous Whimsy of a Peace, which no body thinks of, now they drop the Fable, that your Stocks may fall, and they may buy them again cheap, and so keep them till they can bubble you with another cheat, and sell them to you again; and thus about once a Month, they pick your Pockets of four or five per Cent. upon

your Stocks, tossing you up and catching you again like a parcel of —s, that never know when to keep your Money, nor when to part with it.

Next this, we come to the Party-use of this Whimsy of a Peace, for the Court of Requests have their Uses of it, as well as the Statesmen of Exchange-Alley.

Here we not only buzz about that there is a Peace in View, but the Conditions are Discours'd of, and that, as I presume, to let them go Abroad, and see how the Town would relish them, viz. That Spain and the Indies should be given to King Philip, and the Elector of Bavaria be either restored to his own Country, or have the Low Countries given to him in Sovereignty, by the King of Spain — And that upon this Consideration, France should acquiesce in, and the Electors of Bavaria and Cologne should Vote for the Arch Duke Charles being chosen Emperor, to whom also should be quitted the Spanish Dominions in Italy, such as Naples, Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Majorca, &c. Milan, and the Spanish Towns on the Coast of Tuscany.

Now what gross Thoughts must we have of Things, to conceive such a Peace? — What are the Dutch reduc'd to, that they should come in to it? — What terrible Apprehensions of a Disappointment in the ensuing Election are the Friends of the House of Austria in, that they should stoop to such a mean Concession as this? And after all, who are the Ministers of State, who the Plenipotentiaries here, that will venture to advise such a Peace, after what has been Voted, been Addressed, been said to and by our Parliaments, with relation to the Circumstances of the War, and Conditions of the Peace?

Were there any visible appearance of such a Treaty on Foot; Were we in any danger of taking this Scandalous Step, I might enter a little into the Dishonourable part of it, and shew how nothing but Treachery to the Government, and a visible Partiality to France, could bring us to any such Thing; but as I am Treating it rather as a Whimsy (which I think it deserves)

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a Chimera, that has no Foundation, no Being in Nature, and that it is all owing to Stock-Jobbers, State-Jobbers, and meer Street-Politicians without any Ground, this makes the other part utterly needless.

I make no doubt, but at last this War will end in a Partition; Heaven seems to inform us, that we owe so much to the Memory of King *William*, who saw with Eyes not granted to this Age; who knew the Power and Policy of *France*, and the Propensity in the Nations of *Europe*, to jar, be jealous of, and fall out with one another, and of this Nation, to do all that with itself, and therefore consented to a Treaty, to bind *France* down in Time, and take from her the Occasion, as well as the Desire of breaking in upon us. — This we have rejected, and insulted his Memory for, and yet this we would have come into at the last Treaty, and must at at last.

Nor can I but notice one Thing here, which I leave by Way of Observation for those that please to consider of. — *France* offer'd to give King *Charles* the whole Kingdom of *Spain* and the *Indies*, to restore the *Spanish* *Netherlands*, and infinite other Conquests, reserving to King *Philip*, *Naples*, and *Scicily*, and this, if I mistake not, was thus offer'd four Years ago. — If this be true, then have we been fighting (a blessed War indeed!) for the last 4 [Year, viz. For *Naples* and *Scicily*, and all the Protestant Blood, all the Ruin of Trade and Destruction of *Europe*, which has been the Consequence of the last four Years War, has been for nothing but to gain *Naples* and *Scicily* for the House of *Austria*, who now are like to have too much without it.

A Blessed War, and a great Noise about nothing indeed! I remember when the Cry run so strong that Way, that a Man could not be heard against it, and to talk of a Partition was to talk like a Fool. — When Prince *Eugene* was said to swear by God, tho' I do not believe a Word of it, when they

demanded something for King *Philip*, That he should not have one Foot of *Spanish* Ground, no not to bury him — I say, I remember the strong Argument made use of, against letting *Philip V.* have *Naples* and *Scicily*; That our Trade would be Ruin'd by it, That the Naval Power of *France* would be made Superiour to all the World by it, and I know not what; and a wise Secretary of State was pleas'd to honour me so far as to tell me so — And at the same Time would have given up much more for a worse Cause. — Yet is not all our Trade to *Scicily* worth mention, nor can the whole Kingdoms of *Naples* and *Scicily* fit out or Entertain, or Maintain, or have they one Port to lay up, or fit out any Squadron of Men of War; and the most *Naples* has pretended to, has been two Frigats all this War, and both of them were Chased by one *French* Privateer; nor has *Scicily* added one Ship to the Fleet; a few Gallies is all the Force of the Country. — And to save these two paltry Places to the Use of King *Charles III.* have we (the *English* and *Dutch*) spent Millions of Money, and Thousands of brave Soldiers, enough to make us blush to mention.

To this Infatuation has Heaven justly Condemn'd us for the Rebellion of our Wills against our Understanding, in aid of our Prejudices at the Memory of King *William*, of which I may live to tell you more.

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#### ERRATA.

REVIEW N° 34. p. 139. Col. 1. l. 2. for Three r. Four; ibid col. 2. l. 22. 22. r. the Queen cannot but be oblig'd by it. N° 35. p. 141. col. 1. l. last but one, for that r. any; p. 142. in the Verses, l. 13. r. Feud's, and after Pulse ad (,); ib. l. 14. add (,) after Heat.

A D V E R.

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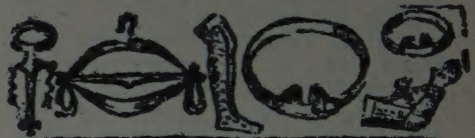
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